

~~SECRET~~ ~~NOFORN~~

Ceylon

I. Status and Strength of the Communist Party in Ceylon

Ceylon has three Communist parties. All of them are small but have sizeable followings among urban and plantation labor and low-paid white collar workers. The one having the most popular support is Trotskyite, and its head is leader of the parliamentary opposition. Second is ~~the~~ ^{the} Moscow-oriented party which supports the present government, ^{although it remains outside the governing coalition.} The third, whose ^{capable} leader is not Minister of Food and Agriculture, is a splinter Trotskyite group which at various times has been allied with each of the others. The last two are increasingly being challenged by the first to force the government to adopt more radical measures for the benefit of the low-income workers and peasants. There are approximately 1,300 Moscow-oriented Communists and about 1,500 Trotskyites.

II. Sabotage Action and Potential

~~Communist~~ Communist sabotage in this area was negative until October 1955 at which time it was reported that Party members had been instructed to obtain as many arms as possible. A report of June 1957 stated that the Communist Party was organizing revolutionary councils to provide leadership for violent action if it should be necessary.

^{It has been} ~~In view of~~ the policy of the Moscow-oriented Communist Party, ^{in recent months} to support the present Ceylonese government, ^{in its anti-Western measures,} ~~in spite of signs of~~ ^{therefore} preparations for violent action, it is unlikely that the Communist Party will undertake ^{violent} ~~such~~ action in the near future, unless it ^{cooperates with} ~~the Federal (pro-Tamil) Party~~ in demonstrations over the language issue, ~~and further~~ ^{such demonstrations can lead to violent clashes.}

has reason to believe that the government is contemplating a basic change in its attitude toward the Soviet bloc. Should it seek to provoke violence, the CCPs are more likely to

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~